

A regular monthly meeting of Middleton Town Council was held at the Town Hall on Monday, January 7, 2013, starting at 7 p.m.

PRESENT

Chairing the meeting, Mayor Calvin Eddy; Deputy Mayor Dan Smith; Councillors John Himmelman, Marc Britney, and Gail Smith; Chief Administrative Officer, Clayton MacMurtry; Director of Finance, Marianne Daine; and Recording Secretary, Sharon McAuley.

Regrets: Councillors Darren Boates and Melinda den Haan.

Also in attendance were Henry Hicks, Jeanne Saulnier, Jim Mosher, Janet Knox and Dale Sanford.

Solicitor Gillis arrived at 7 p.m. and left the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

13.01.01 PRESENTATIONS

.01 Our Community, Our Health Campaign

Henry Hicks, Chair of the *Our Community, Our Health Campaign* advised Council that to date, most of the work has been completed, including a new and expanded emergency room, new surgical beds, improvements in chemotherapy, mental health and addiction services and the relocation of administration offices to Coldbrook. The last gem in the campaign is the hospice which will have eight (8) beds, be linked with the regional hospital and enhance/support end-of-life services already offered at Soldiers' Memorial Hospital (SMH).

The Campaign is for eight million dollars, and six million, five hundred thousand dollars has already been raised, including \$80,000.00 each donated by the SMH and Annapolis Royal Foundations. Valley Home Hardware stores are contributing to the chemotherapy program, and the Middleton Rotary has also donated. The Campaign is looking for a commitment from the Town of Middleton of \$29,800.00 which could be a \$6,000.00 annual commitment over five years.

On question from Mayor Eddy, Mr. Hicks thought that the disconnect between the regional hospital and other areas has improved, although there are still pockets of it and that whether a person lives in Annapolis Royal, Middleton or Wolfville, it is important to have an excellent regional hospital.

Concerns raised by Council include:

- that residents expect their tax dollars to support their local hospital and help with keeping the ER open;
- pledging tax dollars to something that is not the Town's mandate;
- that with limited tax dollars, how does the Town find funds for the Campaign when they are also being asked to help with doctor recruitment and creating a primary care unit at SMH.

Mr. Hicks and Mr. Mosher stated that supporting the regional hospital means that:

- the Town's constituents can receive world-class service at a hospital that is less than one hour away;
- instead of having to travel to Halifax, people can travel to Kentville.

Ms. Knox and Mr. Mosher stated that:

- in the past, many services were offered in local hospitals but people were not surviving;
- the regional hospital provides a stroke centre, a cardiac centre and a trauma centre which provides a much better level of care;
- the child morbidity rate in Nova Scotia was the worst in the country, until regionalization of services happened;
- cataract surgery is performed in Middleton, and it is the most efficient in the country;
- the doctors said they could not deliver the babies and perform the surgeries in a safe manner when they may only do one or two every now and then.

Mr. Hicks stated that:

- the Hospice will also be a training facility for staff and family at the SMH and Annapolis Royal facilities;
- palliative beds will remain in Middleton and Annapolis Royal;
- expansion of palliative care will be in the communities and not by adding more beds to the hospice;
- if anyone would like additional information, they can contact Dale Sanford.

Henry Hicks, Jeanne Saulnier, Jim Mosher, Janet Knox and Dale Sanford left the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

13.01.02 PROCLAMATIONS

.01 Alzheimer Awareness Month

Mayor Eddy proclaimed the month of January 2013 *Alzheimer Awareness Month* in the Town of Middleton. He noted that an estimated 15,000 Nova Scotians are impacted by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and that the Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia is committed to alleviating the personal and social consequences of these diseases and promoting the search for the causes and cures.

13.01.03 CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

CAO MacMurtry advised Council of the following changes to the agenda:

- Information/Discussion Items:
 - Add item 13.01.07.08 – Hydrants;
 - Add item 13.01.07.09 – Solicitor Attendance at Council Meetings.
- Move item 13.01.04 – Solicitor to the end of the meeting.

13.01.05 MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith, that the minutes of the regular Council meeting of December 3, 2012, be approved as circulated. Motion carried.

13.01.06 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Business Arising Report has been circulated to all members of Council.

13.01.07 NEW BUSINESS**Action Items****.01 Approval of Bills**

It was moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Himmelman, that Council approve the payment of the bills for December 2012, in the amount of \$420,218.96. Motion carried.

On request from Deputy Mayor Smith, Director of Finance Daine will prepare a variance report. She also stated that the reports are reviewed and if there is an issue, Council is advised.

.02 Special Reserve Fund Borrowing - Paving

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith, that Council authorize the borrowing of \$48,714.15 from the Land Sale Proceeds Elementary School Special Reserve Fund, with repayment over a five-year term, at an annual interest rate of 2.22%, to finance the cost of paving Meadow Lane (\$5,992.08), Sunset Crescent (\$6,989.09), School Street (\$19,143.15) and Spring Garden Road (\$16,589.83). Motion carried.

.03 Reallocation of Capital Funds – Water Utility

CAO MacMurtry advised Council that he had received the proposal on updating the Town's information technology (IT) including:

- purchase and installation of a new server, with the existing server becoming the backup server;
- purchase and configuration of iPads for Council and management team (including training).

On requests from Council, CAO MacMurtry agreed to:

- check on the cost of fibre to the Town Hall and/or Public Works;
- develop a policy on use of internet, email, tablet and digital signature.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Smith, seconded by Councillor Himmelman, that Council approve the expenditure of \$21,000.00 for the purchase and installation of a new server and software (\$10,000.00) and tablets (\$11,000.00), with the funding sources being \$5,000.00 Capital Out of Revenue, as per the budget, and a reallocation of \$9,000.00 from Water Depreciation Funds for well head repairs, and \$6,000.00 from Water Depreciation Funds hospital pumping station valve replacement, and \$1,000.00 from Water Depreciation Funds hydrant replacement. Motion carried.

.04 Appointments**a. Annapolis Digby Economic Development Agency**

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Councillor Smith, that Council appoint Jonathan Archibald as Council's appointed representative on the Annapolis-Digby Economic Development Agency board and Deputy Mayor Dan Smith as alternate member. Motion carried.

b. Annapolis Valley Regional Library Board

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith, that Council appoint Jill Cox as the Town's representative

on the Annapolis Valley Regional Library board for a term of one year. Motion carried.

Information/Discussion Items

.05 Parking

The Parking Report has been circulated to all members of Council.

.06 Maritime Lumber Bureau – Request for Resolution

Council agreed not to pass the “Wood First” resolution.

.07 Expansion of UNSM Benefits to Elected Officials

Council agreed that they are interested in the program and would require more information prior to committing.

At request of Council, CAO MacMurtry will investigate councillor pension plans and report back to Council.

.08 Hydrants

CAO MacMurtry advised Council that the County is exploring removing six (6) fire hydrants from Brooklyn Road.

.09 Solicitor Attendance at Council Meetings

Council agreed that the Solicitor does not have to attend all Council meetings.

CAO MacMurtry will contact Solicitor Gillis and:

- advise him of Council’s decision;
- ask him to advise the CAO of any agenda items by the Wednesday preceding the Council meeting;
- that the Town may still contact him on the day of the Council meeting and ask him to attend.

13.01.08

REPORTS

.01 Mayor

Mayor Eddy tabled his report for the month of January.

.02 RCMP

The RCMP report for the month of November is available at Town Hall for review by Council members. The RCMP Seniors’ Safety Report for the month of November has been circulated to all members of Council.

13.01.09

CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence for the month of December has been circulated to all Council members.

13.01.10

ANYTHING BY MEMBERS

Councillor Britney advised that he and Councillor Himmelman attended the 14 Wing Greenwood Levee and that the Hospital Committee is attempting to arrange a meeting with John Ross.

Deputy Mayor Smith advised Council that:

- the Website Committee has been meeting and carrying out work on the website, including conducting a page-by-page review;
- they can advise the Website Committee, if they notice anything that requires their attention;
- the areas around the crosswalk signs and in front of the fire hydrants and green bins require snow clearing.

Councillor Smith commented on the length of time it took to clear the streets and sidewalks after the December 30th storm.

Mayor Eddy advised Council that he, Deputy Mayor Smith and CAO MacMurtry had attended a meeting on the Regional Enterprise Network with municipal units from Kings and Annapolis Counties. They will be attending another meeting on January 10, 2013.

13.01.04

SOLICITOR

.01 In Camera

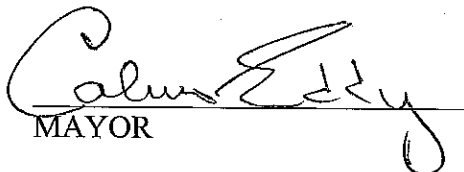
It was moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Britney, that the Council adjourn to in-camera at 9:14 p.m., to discuss litigation and acquisition of municipal property. Motion carried.

It was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith, that Council return to regular session at 9:41 p.m. Motion carried.

13.01.11

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was moved by Councillor Britney, seconded by Deputy Mayor Smith that the Council adjourn at 9:41 p.m. Motion carried.


MAYOR


RECORDING SECRETARY